

REMARKS

Prior to this response, Claims 1-20 were pending. Through this response, Claims 16-18 and 20 have been cancelled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter claimed therein. Accordingly, Claims 1-15 and 19 are now at issue in the present case.

In the Office Action, the Examiner determined that the present application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species: (1) Species A, drawn to Figs. 3-7B¹; and, Species B, drawn to Figs. 8A-9B. Accordingly, the Examiner issued a restriction requirement, whereby the Examiner required Applicants, under 35 U.S.C. 121, to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits. Furthermore, the Examiner indicated that a reply to the restriction requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with the requirement, along with a listing of all claims readable thereon.

In response, Applicants elect Species A for prosecution on the merits. Claims 1-15 and 19 are all believed to be readable on Species A. Therefore, Applicants have cancelled Claims 16-18 and 20 without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter claimed therein.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-2198 any fee deficiencies associated with the filing of this paper.

Please address all future correspondence to:

**Tejpal S. Hansra
Hansra Patent Services
3705 Canterbury Lane, #6
Bellingham, WA 98225**

¹ Applicants believe that the Examiner also intended to include Fig. 7C as part of Species A.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number regarding any matters relating to the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



Tejpal S. Hansra
Registration No. 38,172
Hansra Patent Services
3705 Canterbury Lane, #6
Bellingham, WA 98225
(360) 527-1400

Date: JUNE 28, 2002

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Claims 16-18 and 20 have been cancelled.